

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PANEL PRESENTATIONS**  
**TRB ANNUAL MEETING**  
**JANUARY 22-26, 2006**

**COMMITTEE ON METROPOLITAN POLICY, PLANNING AND  
PROCESSES (ADA20)**

The **TRB Committee on Metropolitan Policy, Planning and Processes** is currently soliciting proposed panel presentations for the January 2006 TRB Meeting. The Committee has identified the following two high priority topic area for 2006:

**Issues relating to MPO Strategic Planning and Organizational Change**

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are continually required to respond to a wide variety of challenges. New federal priorities such as security planning, longer standing but less well defined expectations in maintenance and operations activities, and continuing work in regional planning and programming are just a few examples of the variety of the complex tasks MPOs are expected to undertake. In addition to expectations created by federal legislation and USDOT priorities, local issues and needs also generate expectations among local officials and MPO Board members for the MPO to address planning deficiencies and fill in gaps where a lead or coordinating role is needed to address an important local planning or transportation issue.

Some MPOs have undertaken strategic planning or similar efforts to evaluate these challenges, set priorities, and identify necessary institutional change. Proposed presentations should:

- Examine the context and issues which an MPO faced that required a strategic planning effort or organizational review,
- Discuss the process undertaken to evaluate the issues, review the organization, propose necessary responses, and identify needed organizational change,
- Summarize the outcome and results of the process,
- Evaluate and comment on the quality and value of the process, and
- If possible, discuss the outcome of the organization change in addressing identified issues.

**Identifying Future Transportation Trends to support the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process**

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) are required to develop long range transportation plans that cover a period of 20 years or more. Identifying transportation trends can be an integral part of producing a transportation plan that anticipates future conditions in addition to responding to current conditions. Identification of future trends can also create an opportunity to support or counter selected transportation trends through strategic actions included in a transportation plan. Approaches to add a futurist dimension to long range planning efforts can include expert panels,

research of existing analysis, or public forums to discuss anticipated futures and the probability of their occurrence.

MPO's and other planning organizations have undertaken efforts to identify transportation trends to consider future challenges and conditions, identify strategies, and incorporate policies and investment into the transportation plans. Proposed panel presentations should:

- Discuss the role of identifying and analyzing future transportation trends in the transportation planning process
- Identify techniques to consider transportation trends, and discuss their relative pro's and con's
- Demonstrate how the information on transportation trends has been effectively incorporated into the transportation planning process
- Demonstrate how the information was included in the transportation plan for public information and analysis
- Indicate if there are tracking mechanisms and efforts to update and adjust transportation plans as future trends unfold

Proposals for **panel presentations only** on this issue for the 2006 TRB Annual Meeting should be submitted to Ted Matley, Chair, Research Subcommittee, ADA20, at [ted.matley@fta.dot.gov](mailto:ted.matley@fta.dot.gov) by August 1, 2005. Submissions should include a brief (less than one page) discussion of the presentation and identify the proposed speaker or speakers.

Please note that the Committee is also interested in papers than can be submitted for review through the TRB paper submission procedures. Papers for presentation and/or publication at the 2006 Annual Meeting must be submitted electronically at the TRB website no later than August 1, 2005. Papers cannot be accepted after August 1, 2005 because of the time required for peer review and program development. Paper submission information is posted on the TRB website <http://www4.trb.org/trb/annual.nsf>. If submitting a paper, please indicate **ADA20** on the Submission Review form to indicate that the paper is being submitted in response to this call for papers.

Questions on panel presentations and paper proposals should be directed to Ted Matley, Chair, Research Subcommittee, ADA20, at the phone number or email address below.

For more information, please contact:

- Peter Plumeau, Committee Chair, 802-985-2530 or [pplumeau@wilbursmith.com](mailto:pplumeau@wilbursmith.com)
- Ted Matley, Research Subcommittee Chair, 415-744-2590 or [ted.matley@fta.dot.gov](mailto:ted.matley@fta.dot.gov)